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SENATOR ALLARD'S PUEBLO DEPOT PROVISIONS GAIN CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE

*Language in supplemental bill
requires more than \$372 million to be spent on cleanup,
forbids studies on shipping weapons from current locations*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Senate on Tuesday gave final approval, by a vote of 100 to zero, to the FY 2005 Supplemental Appropriations Act that includes provisions added by U.S. Senators Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) and Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky), requiring the Department of Defense (DoD) to spend \$372.38 million previously appropriated but not spent for cleaning up chemical weapons stockpiles at the Pueblo Depot in Colorado and the Blue Grass Depot in Kentucky. The House passed the bill Thursday on a vote of 368 to 58, and President Bush is expected to sign it as soon as it reaches his desk this week.

The final version of the bill requires the DoD to spend or contract for \$100 million-worth of work at the sites in no more than 120 days.

“We have, in effect, engraved this in stone,” said Senator Allard, who was a member of the House-Senate conference committee that finalized the bill and ensured that the language stayed in the legislation. “This supplemental appropriations bill forbids, by law, any consideration of moving the chemical weapons out of Pueblo for disposal.”

“Additionally, it directs the Department of Defense to begin contracting for disposal of the chemical weapons on site,” the Senator said. “Now that this bill is law, there is no way the department can misconstrue or second-guess Congress’ intent.”

The supplemental appropriations legislation also forbids the expenditure of the funding provided for Pueblo and Blue Grass on any other program, and it specifically forbids any expenditure whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, on any study related to the transportation of chemical weapons across state lines.

“It is my hope that the Pueblo Depot cleanup project will now move forward toward meeting the 2012 Chemical Weapons Convention treaty deadline,” Senator Allard said.